

I suspect that Arthur & Joan
are on their way here Rome 22^d Nov^r. 1891

My dear Maria

I have waited with much anxiety
for some little good news in the midst of the
sadness of the abolition of my Consulate
but as yet I have nothing pleasant to tell
you - that I may possibly get a pension.
I believe there is not a doubt, but 'tis
sure to be very small, some ^{ster} quittance part
of my salary at most - yet whatever it is
I shall feel it my duty in some way to
send you the usual £40

The job has now been unexpected
as the Legation now set up does not require
a Consul & the new com^r. I received was
only to render my remaining acts legal

I trust to fall back on my painting &
am even now at work - there have been 3
enquiries about the prices of my pictures, the 1st
I have had during my ten years, for people think

P.D.



Mrs Maria Severn



Severn's Esq^r
Lyme St Camden Road
Camden Town London

NW

that a Consul can only make copies!!

Fortunately I have little or nothing to
change for I have never fallen into my trap
I shall let the greater part of my house & so
be more than rent free. - This blow finds me
in good health, able to walk, to paint & even
to keep up my spirits a little, but I confess
being a little dashed I shall be so until
I get F. G.'s answer as to the amount of
my salary - The surprise has been great at
my age of 78 tho' this may be in my favour

Decr 2^d - Walter tells me that he has
understood at the P. O. that my place
is not to be abolished - yet I am in a
great stew as by law my pension would
be only 67 £!! - but the ^{new} papers are most
warmly supporting against the shabbiness
of F. G. - I am well tho' a little dashed,
at my painting every day & most warmly
supported even here - in great haste
your loving Joe

P.D.



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Severn's Esq

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NW